



BUREAU OF STATE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO.

JUL 15 1957

Hon. John E. Fogarty  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Fogarty:

This is in reply to your letter of July 8, 1957, to Mr. Sam Kimble with which you forwarded a letter from Mrs. Geneva Smedberg of Centredale, Rhode Island. Mrs. Smedberg wishes to know why we export polio vaccine when our own children have not been adequately protected.

The establishment of export quotas for poliomyelitis vaccine and the approval of export licenses under this quota is the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, however, does participate in an advisory capacity in these functions. The decision to permit export of a limited amount of vaccine to friendly countries is based on two considerations.

The first of these is a humanitarian consideration for the health and welfare of children in these friendly countries. Export licenses are approved only for those areas in which the incidence of poliomyelitis is high and where the vaccine is to be used for the protection of those age groups in which the risks are at least as great as those in the United States.

The second consideration relates to our dependence on foreign countries for a supply of monkeys which are essential both in the production and testing of the vaccine. Some time ago, vaccine manufacturers in this country were faced with a possible embargo on monkeys by India, the principal source of our supply. The decision of the United States to share our vaccine supplies with other nations has been an important factor in ensuring an adequate source of monkeys for production of vaccine both for domestic use and for export.

The total amount of poliomyelitis vaccine which has been exported since the beginning of the program is 12,863,415 cc. This is approximately seven percent of the vaccine which has been produced. An export quota is established for each quarter shortly before the beginning of the quarter.

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In establishing these quotas, primary consideration is given to the anticipated supply of vaccine which will be available and to the anticipated domestic demand for vaccine. It was on the basis of these considerations that the export quota for the third quarter of this year was reduced to 3,000,000 cc. from the quota of 5,000,000 cc. which had been in effect for the second quarter, and the quota of 7,000,000 cc. which had been established for the first quarter.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

*Otis L. Anderson*

Assistant Surgeon General  
Chief, Bureau of State Services